

As a Vermonter who has been married for 47 years, I am a great fan of the institution of marriage. I believe it is important to encourage and to sanction committed relationships, and to provide for stable, supportive families. When Vermont passed legislation on same-sex marriage, it reaffirmed my fundamental belief we should not create second-class families who do not enjoy the protections other families have. Unfortunately this is still not the case in our Federal Government. With laws like the Defense of Marriage Act in effect, Vermont same-sex marriages are still treated differently. I believe it is time to repeal it, so that all Vermonters can be treated equally under the law.

Vermont's State motto is depicted clearly on our State flag: "Freedom and Unity." Today, same-sex couples in Vermont are now able to enjoy the same freedoms that opposite sex couples in Vermont enjoy. Same-sex couples now have the freedom to create and to preserve family unity, and to bring happiness and stability to their children and loved ones. I am proud to represent the people of Vermont and I commend them for having reached yet another milestone in the march toward equality.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPITOL HILL SCREENING OF "THE WAY WE GET BY"

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I commemorate the Capitol Hill screening of "The Way We Get By", a deeply moving and powerful documentary film about the iconic Troop Greeters of Bangor in my home State of Maine. On this wonderful occasion, I join with my colleagues in the Maine Delegation—Senator COLLINS, and Representatives MICHAUD and PINGREE—in expressing my tremendous gratitude not only to the USO—the indispensable "home-away-from-home" for our more than 2.5 million men and women exceptional enough to wear our Nation's uniform, so admirably led by USO president and CEO Sloan Gibson—but also to Operation Homefront as well as HandsOn Network—cofounded by Michelle Nunn—who is forging her own path within the longstanding, Nunn family history of commitment to service as CEO of Points of Light Institute.

A part of President Obama's United We Serve initiative, all three of these stellar organizations are presenting this magnificent film in the U.S. Capitol at the wonderful Capitol Visitor Center, and we couldn't be more grateful to them—as well as to the Professional Services Council and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting—and others too numerous to mention for helping bring this documentary to fruition. And I would like to especially thank Simon Kilmurry, executive director of American Documentary, and Aron Gaudet, the film's director, for their stalwart leadership and dedication on this exemplary project.

And it couldn't be more fitting to have Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President BIDEN, introduce this well-deserved tribute to the Bangor Troop Greeters at today's screening—especially as Beau, the Vice President's son and Delaware's attorney general, has just returned from his deployment in Iraq as a member of the Delaware Army National Guard's 261st Signal Brigade. We commend Beau and all of those returning in his brigade, and we cannot thank them enough for their courageous service and heroic sacrifice to our Nation.

And of course, expressing our admiration and thankfulness to those who have placed themselves in harm's way on our behalf is the driving impetus behind this superb endeavor to capture on film the incredible generosity of spirit and good will unflaggingly exemplified by the Bangor Troop Greeters. For these extraordinary individuals, three of whom are showcased in the movie and attended today's screening, meeting our service men and women at the Bangor International Airport is an undeniable labor of love and a heartfelt expression of their devotion to our country and all who defend her.

In chronicling the selfless, patriotic and frankly larger-than-life actions of three amazing Mainers—Bill Knight, Joan Gaudet, and Jerry Mundy, director and Old Town native, Aron Gaudet—in tandem with Gita Pullapilly, the film's producer and interviewer, deftly brings to this undertaking the venerable tradition of extending handshakes and hugs to our brave soldiers, dating back to the first gulf war and Operation Desert Storm. And to document the humanity underpinning this monumental outpouring of support for our troops—which occurs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, rain or shine—is a marvelous achievement and one which instills enormous pride in us all.

On a personal note, I can't tell you how many of our soldiers I have encountered who have expressed their immense appreciation to the world-renowned Bangor Troop Greeters. In fact, I well recall one soldier coming up to me specifically to convey just how remarkable the troop greeters were and that fellow soldiers shared the same sentiment. We echo that very sensibility today.

Congratulations to all who have been involved in the continuing success of this highly-acclaimed film documenting a phenomenal story of giving back to those who have given us all so much—our service men and women!

TRIBUTE TO FRANK D. STELLA

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a pillar of my community, Detroit businessman and philanthropist Frank D. Stella.

Born in Pennsylvania, the son of Italian immigrants, he founded the F.D. Stella Products Company in Detroit in 1946, shortly after he returned

from military service during World War II. Frank has built the company into a nationwide network of food-service suppliers, forming the backbone of his business and civic involvement in Michigan. And that involvement is extensive. From business to health care to the arts to charity work, there is little that happens in Detroit that doesn't involve Frank Stella in some way. Frank has long been active in the city's most important business groups, including the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and Detroit Economic Club. A patron of the arts, he has served on governing boards for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Detroit Discovery Museum. He has demonstrated a long-time commitment to health care, serving on the boards of the Detroit Medical Center, Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, and Grace Hospital of Detroit. Education has been another focus: He has served on the boards of the University of Detroit-Mercy, his alma mater, as well as the Wayne County Community College Foundation.

The breadth and depth of his accomplishments and involvement has drawn the notice of many. Organizations as diverse as the Detroit Urban League, the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, and the American Institute of Architects have honored him for his contributions. In 1995, he received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award recognizing the importance of the immigrant experience in American life. The Italian Government has bestowed numerous awards upon him, as have four U.S. Presidents. His support of his Roman Catholic faith has earned the thanks of popes.

On Oct. 30, many of Frank's friends will gather to honor his 90th birthday. Fittingly, the celebration will serve as a fundraiser for four more of Frank's causes: the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance, and Boys' Town of Italy. I thank him for his years of service to our city and State and wish him continued health and success in his many community endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE PARKS AND PEOPLE FOUNDATION

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Parks and People Foundation of Baltimore, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Community activist Sally Michel founded Parks and People in 1984. Since then, Parks and People has grown from Sally's kitchen counter to a planned, eco-friendly, LEED Platinum-certified headquarters.

Today, Parks and People Foundation, under the leadership of Jackie Carrerra and the creative energy and advocacy